

THE NINETEENTH
Annual Report

ON THE
HEALTH and SANITARY
≡ CONDITION ≡

OF THE
Urban District of Desborough,

FOR
1910,

BY
HENRY GIBBONS, M.D., C.M.,

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Medical Officers of Health, &c.

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DESBOROUGH,

February 14th, 1911.

THE DESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Nineteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Desborough Urban District for the year ended December 31st, 1910.

The area of the district is 2,307 acres. At the census of 1901 the total population at all ages was 3,573, the number of inhabited houses 748, and the average number of persons per house 4·7. I have estimated the population to the middle of 1910 as 4,300.

Births and Birth-rate.

There were 93 births registered—54 males and 39 females—giving a birth-rate of 21·62 per 1,000, which is not only far below the average for the years 1900-1909, but also the lowest recorded for this district. Of the births registered two were illegitimate, both males.

General Mortality.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 46—21 males and 25 females—but to this number must be added the death of a resident male, which occurred in a public institution beyond the district. The nett death-rate therefore for the year was 10·93 per 1,000, which is somewhat less than that recorded for the previous year.

The chief causes of death were as follow :—

Influenza	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	4
Other Tubercular diseases	...			2
Cancer, Malignant disease	...			5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	3
Heart diseases	...	...	...	7
Accident	...	...	...	1
All other causes	...	...	...	20

Two Coroner's inquests were held during the year, one relative to the death of a person who accidentally fell down a staircase, and the other on the body of an infant found dead in bed.

AGES TABLE OF DEATHS.

Under one year, there were 13 deaths.

1 and under 5 years, there were 4 deaths.

15 and under 25 years, there was 1 death.

25 and under 65 years, there were 18 deaths.

65 and upwards, there were 11 deaths.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths below the age of one year was 13, equivalent to an Infant rate of mortality of 139 deaths to 1,000 births registered, which is not only higher than that of the previous year, but also above the average for the decennium 1900-1909.

As to the causes of death, Premature Birth and Debility were responsible for 6 out of the 13, Convulsions for 3, Bronchitis 2, Pneumonia 1, and Rickets 1. Five of the infants were below the age of one month. It will

therefore be observed that almost a half of the total number of deaths of children below the age of one year was accountable more or less to influences operating through the medium of the mothers, which will, as education in health matters takes stronger root amongst the people, give place to others of a beneficial character.

I am pleased to report the continuation of the excellent work of the Health Visitor, whose services I intimated in my last annual report had been extended to this district by the County Council. It is to work of such highly educational value that we must look for assistance in securing the reduction of the high infantile mortality which obtains in the district.

I may here state that though the Notification of Births' Act is not in force in this district, lists of all cases of births attended by the local medical practitioners and Mid-wife are regularly furnished to the Health Visitor.

Phthisis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis or Phthisis was responsible for the deaths of four persons—two males and two females—and giving a death-rate of '47 per 1,000 for the previous year. This increase in the rate of mortality from Consumption is much to be regretted though not unexpected, for in dealing with this subject last year I uttered a word of warning against taking too optimistic a view of the favourable figures then presented.

Two notifications were received under the Public Health Act (Tuberculosis) Regulations of the Local Government Board and obtained due attention from your officers. In all the cases of this disease which came under observation, advice was tendered as to preventing the disease spreading and the bedrooms of the sufferers were disinfected as occasion required.

Respiratory Diseases.

The mortality from Respiratory diseases was about the same as that of last year, viz : four cases with a rate of '93 per 1,000.

Zymotic Mortality.

There was no death registered as due to Zymotic disease, a fact worthy of record and congratulation.

Scarlet Fever.

There were notified five cases of Scarlet Fever during the year—three in one house and one each in two houses—and they occurred with considerable intervals between. With the exception of the two secondary cases, in none could the source of infection be traced. The malady happily presented itself in a very mild form, no fatal cases having been reported.

Disinfectants and printed instructions, with a view to checking the spread of the disease, were furnished to those in charge of the sick, and at the termination of each case the rooms occupied were disinfected under the supervision of your Inspector.

As usual, as soon as a case came under observation, the teacher of the school attended by the patient was informed of the fact so that any suspicious condition of the pupils might receive attention.

Whooping Cough.

Although Whooping Cough was very prevalent during the months of May and June, there was no mortality from this disease.

Influenza.

Influenza was more or less prevalent throughout the year, but at no period did it approach in severity the visitation of the previous twelve months. The death of one person of the age of 81 was registered as due to this disease.

Schools.

Both the Council and Church Schools were visited and with the exception of the urinals and w.c.'s which required lime-washing, were found to maintain their usual high standard of cleanliness and sanitation. The defects referred to were without delay attended to on representations being made to the authorities responsible.

Water Supply.

I am pleased to be able to report that the due supply of water was not at any time interrupted though there was an occasion not without anxiety when about the end of November the depth of the water in the Water-works well decreased to the low level of six feet sixteen inches, and it was necessary to pump three times a day to obtain sufficient water for the requirements of the district.

From December 3rd the water in the well gradually rose and at the end of the year attained a depth of twelve feet, sufficient to yeild a supply of 75,000 gallons per day.

Of course it is to the increased rainfall recorded during the year that we are indebted for the improvement in the water supply, but no wise authority with the bitter experience of 1909, by reason of the failure of the Water-works' Well, and having at heart the health

and interests of the people, could afford to take the risk of relying upon such an uncertain factor as the rain-fall for the supply to a town of over 4,000 inhabitants of that which is of primary sanitary importance.

In my last Annual Report I referred to the fact that steps had been taken with the view of obtaining an additional source of public water-supply, and I have now to record that decided progress has been made in the matter. Indeed there is good reason for expecting very soon a satisfactory report from the engineer concerned.

A sample of the town water was sent to the Clinical Research Association in June last. The report received was of a very satisfactory character and afforded proof that the measures taken with regard to the surface drains in the Water-works field had not been without benefit.

An extension of the water main has been made to Harrington Road where seven cottages have recently been erected.

Isolation Hospital and Disinfection.

The only Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases is that for small-pox. This structure is kept in a good state of repair, the whole of the exterior having recently been re-painted.

I may here remark that in the management and control of most cases of infectious diseases occurring in the district, your officers too often keenly feel the want of an Isolation Hospital, for, owing to the restricted accommodation in many of the cottages, and other circumstances, it is a most difficult matter to secure effective isolation.

As usual, at the termination of every case of infectious disease, the rooms occupied by the patients have been disinfected under the supervision of your Inspector. I very much regret that the question of the provision of a Steam Disinfector, so often recommended, still remains in the speculative stage.

Dwelling Houses and Over-crowding.

Ten houses have been erected during the year, though fourteen were approved of by the Council.

There is adequate accomodation for the working-classes in the district, but in spite of this fact, there were two cases of over-crowding which required the intervention of your Sanitary Inspector. The Housing and Town Planning, etc. Act has received the serious consideration of the Council. Under the supervision of the Medical Officers of Health, the Sanitary Inspector has been appointed to carry out the requirements of the Act. A list of dwellings in certain localities in the parish requiring early inspection has been submitted to the Council, who have authorised the Sanitary Inspector to make the neccessary inspections and the report thereon will shortly be furnished to the Council.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.

Taken as a whole there appears to be greater attention given by householders to the maintenance of the w.c.'s in a clean and sanitary condition, more especially is this so in those cases where one w.c. serves the requirements of the inmates of only one dwelling.

The work of the collection and removal of house refuse has been satisfactorily performed, the rubbish being carted to a field adjoining the Pipwell road and as much of it consumed by fire as its character and the circumstances will allow.

The receptacles for ashes, &c., utilised by many of the householders, are frequently boxes in a very dilapidated condition, hence in the process of removal their contents become scattered about back yards and passages. It would be advisable for the Council to insist upon the provision in all such cases of proper covered bins and so promote a more sanitary state of affairs.

I would also suggest that the dust carts should be provided with some sort of covering, as, under present conditions, when passing through the streets, especially during a windy day, their lighter contents are blown about, proving most objectionable and insanitary.

The appearance on Sundays of the main roadways strewn with pieces of paper and the pavements in need of brushing, called for the serious consideration of the Council, with the consequence that additional labour was utilised in the work of street cleaning and a salutary improvement effected.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The only portion of the sewerage system which has not afforded good results is that in Union street. This sewer, which it was found necessary to have scraped in October, has been on several occasions adversely criticised in these reports. It has an insufficient fall and is not large enough in diameter to meet the demands made upon it during periods of heavy rain-fall, moreover the flat-bottomed manholes tend still further to interfere with the free flow of sewage. It is therefore apparent that if the sewage in this particular locality is to be dealt with satisfactorily the construction of a new sewer will require your serious attention.

There were 2,000 loads of water utilised in the flushing of the sewer.

The Sewage Disposal.

Works have been carried out in an effective manner which has been confirmed by the maintenance of a clear effluent and the brook free from any signs of pollution.

The septic tanks have been repaired, the filters emptied of old, and re-filled with fresh filtering material, besides having false bottoms laid therein. A sewage carrier has been constructed for conveying the sewage from the septic tanks on to various parts of the farm. Of decided advantage to the sewage works would be the construction of another filter.

Slaughter-houses.

There are three slaughter-houses in the district all of which have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. The nuisances found chiefly concerned the lime-washing and the accumulation of manure. The accommodation afforded by the premises whereon one of the slaughter-houses is situated is quite inadequate for the large business conducted therein and as a consequence there is a continuous tendency for the cropping up of nuisances. The place in question claims therefore much of the time and attention of your Inspector. On the same premises there came under our notice an outhouse—wherein sausages are usually made—in a very unsatisfactory condition, and the serious attention of the person responsible had to be directed to the matter. An improvement was effected which it is to be hoped will be maintained.

In the process of preparing articles, especially sausages, intended for the food of man, it is by no means too much to demand the exercise of the most scrupu-

lous care and cleanliness, and to ensure this a place suitably constructed for the purpose is very essential.

Inspections of meat are made in the course of the ordinary rounds of the Sanitary Inspector but the slaughter-houses are not specially visited at the times of slaughtering. With the view of detecting tuberculosis and other diseased meat it is very desirable that visits should be paid during slaughtering and so I would accordingly advise that the Inspector be instructed to arrange for such visits and record the same.

The Inspector does not possess a Special Certificate in meat inspection.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops have been regularly inspected and found generally in good condition. The Veterinary Inspector reports specially as to the examination of dairy cows.

Factories and Workshops, (Bakehouses).

Factories, workshops and workplaces have been inspected from time to time during the year. The defects found were :—Want of cleanliness 64 ; want of ventilation 6 ; other nuisances 8. As a rule the employers of labour were active in meeting the requirements of your Inspector.

Although the manufacturers have made adequate provision for the ventilation of their factories it is to be regretted that some of the workmen do not appreciate the importance of the benefits to be derived from fresh air, inasmuch that they take every opportunity of keeping closed the air-inlets within their proximity.

There are now ten factories in the district, an addition having been made during the year by the conversion of a building—vacant for some years past—but previously devoted to corset-making—into one for the manufacture of boots and shoes.

The seven bake-houses—none underground—have been regularly visited and the only cause for complaint had reference to the need of lime-washing which was promptly attended to.

Food Supply.

In the matter of articles of food exposed for sale and intended for human consumption there was no case that required the intervention of your officers.

Inspections.

Systematic inspections of the whole district have been made by me throughout the year.

The Tables of Statistics are filled in as required by the Local Government Board and hereto appended together with a Summary of the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, to whose loyal co-operation on all matters having for their object the promotion of the public health, I am much indebted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY GIBBONS,

Medical Officer of Health.

DESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Inspector of Nuisances' Report,
1910.

The district has been periodically and systematically inspected during the year, and 166 nuisances reported. Of these 152 were abated and 14 still remain to be dealt with. I have had very little difficulty in inducing owners and occupiers of property to carry out necessary works and improvements, as may be seen by the fact that only four statutory notices were issued during the year and no legal proceedings taken.

The Nuisances dealt with were as follows :—

Defective and insufficient ventilation to drains,	3
Defective pavings	2
Insufficient W.C. accommodation ...	1
Orders to limewash	54
Offensive accumulations	10
Defective and choked drains ...	32
Downspouts connected direct with sewer	1
Defective W.C. tanks and fittings ...	21
Structural defects	6
Over-crowding	2
Dirty conditions	2
Pig-stye nuisances	18
Miscellaneous	14
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	166

GEO. E. MARLOW,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.—URBAN DISTRICT OF DESBOROUGH.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS		Total Deaths Registered in the District				Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				Number	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number	Rate				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1900	3514	110	31.3	12	109	46	13.0			46	13.0
1901	3592	114	31.7	10	87	48	13.3			48	13.3
1902	3671	101	27.2	5	49	34	9.2			34	9.2
1903	3752	88	23.4	10	113	56	14.9			56	14.9
1904	3835	106	27.64	13	122	48	12.5			48	12.5
1905	3920	113	28.82	13	115	51	13.01			51	13.01
1906	4000	99	24.75	9	90	38	9.5			38	9.5
1907	4050	90	22.2	9	100	48	11.8			48	11.8
1908	4120	122	29.6	12	98.3	61	14.8		1	62	15.0
1909	4200	121	28.8	16	132	48	11.42		2	50	11.9
Averages for years 1900-1909.	3865	106	27.54	10	101	47	12.34		.3	48.1	12.41
1910	4300	93	21.62	13	139	46	10.69		1	47	10.93

Area of District in acres	2307	Total population at all ages...	3573	} At Census of 1901.
(exclusive of area covered by water.		Number of Inhabited houses	748	
		Average number of persons per house	4.7	

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Kettering Union Infirmary, Kettering Hospital, Leicester Infirmary and Berrywood Lunatic Asylum.
Is Union Workhouse within the District? No,

TABLE III.—URBAN DISTRICT OF DESBOROUGH.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 65 yrs.	65 and upw'ds
Erysipelas ...	1					1	
Scarlet Fever ...	5		3	2			
Totals ...	6		3	2		1	

Isolation Hospital: Only for Small-pox.

Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated } One, Small-pox.

Number of available beds: Four.

TABLE IV.—URBAN DISTRICT OF DESBOROUGH.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up-wards
Epidemic Influenza	1						
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	4					4	1
Other tuberculous diseases ...	2		1			1	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	5					4	1
Bronchitis ...	2	2					
Pneumonia ...	2	1	1				
Premature Birth ...	3	3					
Heart diseases ...	7					4	3
Accidents ...	1					1	
All other causes ...	20	7	2		1	4	6
All causes ...	47	13	4		1	18	11

TABLE V.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—2 Months.	2—3 Months.	4—5 Months.	5—6 Months.	6—7 Months.	10—11 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES { Certified	3	2		5	3		1	1	1	1	12
{ Uncertified						1					1
Premature Birth ...	2	1		3							3
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	1			1	2						3
Rickets ...										1	1
Convulsions ...		1		1		1		1			3
Bronchitis ..					1		1				2
Pneumonia ...									1		1
Other causes ...											
	3	2		5	3	1	1	1	1	1	13

Sub-division of Rothwell.

Population (estimated to middle of 1910) 4300.

Births in the year, legitimate, 91 ; illegitimate, 2.

Deaths in the year, of legitimate infants, 13 ; illegitimate infants, nil.

Deaths from ALL CAUSES AT ALL AGES, 13.

RAINFALL TABLE.

1910.	Total Fall Inches	Days on which .01 or more fell.	Average Rate of fall on Wet Days.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Date of Greatest Fall.
January ...	1.96	16	.122	.39	11th
February ...	2.56	23	.111	.40	14th
March ...	.82	11	.074	.20	9th
April ...	1.48	18	.082	.26	28th
May ...	2.41	18	.133	.44	14th
June ...	1.13	11	.102	.23	1st
July ...	2.27	14	.162	.71	5th
August ...	2.19	17	.128	.31	14th
September ...	.76	8	.095	.54	14th
October ...	2.20	14	.164	.43	1st
November ...	3.50	18	.194	.75	27th
December ...	6.02	23	.261	1.20	1st
Totals	27.30	191			

Taken at Desborough Water-works, situate at 453 feet above ordnance.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 1						
	Lists received from Employers				Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils	No seed Occa to the semg
	Twice in the year		Once in the year				
	Lists	Out-workers	Lists	Out-workers			
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c	26	262			2	1	

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

WORK

			Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises	Outwork in unwholesome premises, Section 108			Outwork in Infected Premises Sections 109, 110		
as or ts.	Prosecutions			Instances	Notices served	Prosecu- tions	Instances	Orders made (S. 110)	Prosecu- tions. S.109, 110
	Failing to keep or per- mit inspec- tion of lists	Failing to send lists							
			86	12	10			Nil	

Administration of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES	14	11	Nil
WORKSHOPS	32	18	Nil
	46	29	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	14	14	Nil	Nil
Ventilation not maintained	6	—	„	„
Other nuisances	8	8	„	„
* Sanitary accommodation				
Insufficient	—	—	„	„
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	„	„
	28	22		

* Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted—One W.C. to 25 persons

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	7
Slaughterhouses	3
Other workshops	15
Total number of workshops on Register	25

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory & Workshop Act (s. 133)	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s 5)	—
Notified by H.M Inspector	—
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector.	—

No underground Bakehouses.